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**"Oscar Wilde on New World Art," *Toronto Globe*, 17 May 1882, 2**

OTTAWA, May 16.

OSCAR WILDE.

Oscar Wilde arrived in the city this morning and put up at the Russell House. This evening he delivered a lecture in the Opera House, and afterwards paid a visit to the Parliament Buildings. Since arriving here he has been fairly besieged by autograph fiends and interviewers, but having become pretty well accustomed to this sort of thing, he treats it all in a businesslike manner. He is easily approached, and apparently cultivates a listless, "aesthetic" sort of air with a view to over-awing the visitor. His most prominent exemplification of the aesthetic consisted in his long flowing hair, drab velvet coat, tie of red silk with flowing ends, and red stockings. Being asked how long he expected to remain in America, he said he contemplated visiting in July next that home of art, Japan. He will leave here tomorrow for Quebec, and will afterwards visit Montreal and Toronto. He thinks Montreal a glorious city, and was quite enthusiastic about it. Being asked his opinion of the frescoing in the French Cathedral he answered rather evasively, and said he did not admire the style. He apparently has not formed a very high idea of Canada from an artistic point of view, and wanted to know what we had been doing here all the time. He was somewhat surprised that the Princess Louise, who was such an admirer of art, had not accomplished greater results. He had found a very nice art gallery in Montreal, and he had been particularly pleased with one painting, which he named. He is evidently not deeply versed in Canadian politics. He had heard that there was a good deal of talk here about free trade and protection, and said the [??] questions were [exerting?] a good deal of [attention?] in England. He asked who the leaders of the respective political parties were, and who were our best debaters, and felt rather disappointed at hearing that he had appeared rather too late on the scene to see Parliament to advantage. He imagined that the Canadian North-West must be a fine country. He had been much pleased with what he had seen of the scenery about Ottawa, and fancied that it would be a nice place in summer time. Of all parts of the United States, Colorado and California had pleased him most. Being asked what he thought of art across the [lines?], he said he had not expected much, as America had contributed nothing to European art; but a younger school was coming up which was valued not so much for what it had accomplished as for what it promised. He had been pleased with the large audiences which greeted him in small towns in the United States, and with the attentive manner in which his lectures had been listened to. He found the masses on this continent better educated than in England, and attributes the fact to our university systems, which permitted farmers' sons and other classes, which English universities did not reach, receiving a higher education. He also thoroughly approved of the co-education of the sexes. What he most disapproved in connection with America was the

ignoring of art by the Churches, and he regarded it as utterly impossible, for this reason, that they should succeed. They required something which would appeal to the emotions and imaginations of the people.

Oscar was introduced to a large number of persons in the speaker's rooms, and afterwards occupied a seat on the floor of the House near the Speaker's chair while the Senate amendments to the Redistribution Bill were being discussed. He was attired as at the lecture, in a suit of black velvet, knickerbocker trousers, black silk stockings, and lace cuffs and tie, and was the subject of a good deal of attention.

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Oscar Wilde arrived in the city this morning and put up at the Russell House. This evening he delivered a lecture in the Opera House, and afterwards paid a visit to the Parliament Buildings. Since arriving here he has been fairly besieged by autograph seekers and interviewers, but having become pretty well accustomed to this sort of thing he treats it all in a businesslike manner. He is easily approached, and apparently cultivates a listless, "aesthetic" sort of air with a view to over-awing the visitor. His most prominent exemplification of the aesthetic consisted in his long flowing hair, Arab velvet coat, tie of red silk with flowing ends, and red stockings. Being asked how long he expected to remain in America, he said he contemplated visiting in July next that home of art, Japan. He will leave here tomorrow for Quebec, and will afterwards visit Montreal and Toronto. He thinks Montreal a glorious city, and was quite enthusiastic about it. Being asked his opinion of the freecost in the French Cathedral he answered rather evasively, and said he did not admire the style. He apparently has not formed a very high idea of Canada from an artistic point of view, and wanted to know what we had been doing here all the time. He was somewhat surprised that the Princess Louise, who was such an admirer of art, had not accomplished greater results. He had found a very nice art gallery in Montreal, and he had been particularly pleased with one painting, which he named. He is evidently not deeply versed in Canadian politics. He had heard that there was a good deal of talk here about free trade and protection, and used the same question were securing a good deal of attention in England. He asked who the leaders of the respective political parties were, and who were our best debaters, and felt rather disappointed at hearing that he had appeared rather too late on the scene to see Parliament in action. He imagined that the Canadian Northwest must be a fine country. He had been much pleased with what he had seen of the scenery about Ottawa, and fancied that it would be a nice place in summer time. Of all parts of the United States, Colorado and California had pleased him most. Being asked what he thought of art across the line, he said he had not expected much, as America had contributed nothing to European art; but a younger school was coming up which was valued not so much for what it had accomplished as for what it promised. He had been pleased with the large audiences which greeted him in small towns in the United States, and with the attentive manner in which his lectures had been listened to. He found the masses on this continent better educated than in England, and attributed the fact to our university system, which permitted farmers' sons and other classes, which English universities did not reach, receiving a higher education. He also thoroughly approved of the co-education of the sexes. What he most disapproved in connection with America was the upholding of art by the Churches, and he regarded it as utterly impossible, for this reason, that they would succeed. They required something which would appeal to the emotions and imaginations of the people.

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AFFAIRS OF THE BANK OF UPPER CANADA.

A statement of Bank of Upper Canada accounts was laid before the House this afternoon by Sir James Wilson. The statement contains the following items: